CLAIMS

1. (Currently Amended) A method for determining if an item is a fraudulent item, the method comprising the steps of:

obtaining by radio means a first number from an RFID tag associated with the item or item's packaging;

determining a second number that is ~~a public-key signature~~ printed on the item or item's packaging and is a public-key signature of the first number;

utilizing a public-key cryptographic process and the first number to cryptographically verify the second number; and

determining the product's authenticity based on the verification.

Please cancel claims 2-4

5. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein the step of determining the products authenticity comprises the step of associating the product with an authentic product if the signature is verified, otherwise associating the product with a forged product.

6. (Currently Amended) A method of manufacturing a product in order to prevent forgery, the method comprising the steps of:

obtaining ~~by radio means~~ an anti-forgery RFID tag of a type that is ~~comes~~ pre-programmed with an unalterable ~~comprising a~~ first number, wherein the unalterable first number is rarely the same number as unalterable first numbers in other anti-forgery RFID tags of the same type;

programming a second number into the anti-forgery RFID tag;

determining a ~~second~~ third number ~~utilizing~~ that is a cryptographic signature over the first and second numbers ~~and a cryptographic process, wherein cryptographic verification of the second number insures the product's authenticity~~;

affixing the anti-forgery RFID tag comprising the first and second numbers to either the product or the packaging associated with the product; and

affixing the ~~second~~ third number to either the product or the packaging associated with the product.

Cancel claim 7.

8. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 6 wherein the step of affixing the ~~second~~ <u>third</u> number to either the product or the packaging associated with the product comprises the step of printing ~~a cryptographic signature~~ <u>the third number</u> on the product or the product's packaging.

Cancel claims 9-10.

11. (Currently Amended) A method comprising the steps of:

obtaining ~~by radio means~~ an RFID tag comprising a first number;

utilizing a private key and the first number to create a second number that is a cryptographic signature, such that cryptographic verification of the second number insures a product's authenticity; and

affixing the second number and the RFID tag to the item or the item's packaging.

Please cancel claims 12-14

15. (Withdrawn) A product scanner comprising:

an RF tag reader outputting contents of an RFID tag;

an optical scanner outputting a public-key cryptographic signature; and

logic circuitry having the contents of the RFID tag and the public-key cryptographic signature as an input and outputting information as to whether an item is a forgery.

16. (Withdrawn) The product scanner of claim 15 wherein the logic circuitry utilizes a public key and cryptographic operations to verify the cryptographic signature.

17. (Withdrawn) An apparatus comprising:

an RF reader outputting contents of an RFID tag;

logic circuitry having the contents of the RFID tag as an input and outputting a public-key cryptographic signature based on the contents of the RFID tag; and

printing circuitry having the public-key cryptographic signature as an input, wherein the printing circuitry commands a printing of the public-key cryptographic signature upon an item or packaging.

18. (Withdrawn) The apparatus of claim 17 further comprising:

an RFID writer outputting product information for the item to the RFID tag.

19. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 1 wherein a bar code is used for rendering the second number that is printed on the item or item's packaging.

20. (Currently Amended) The ~~apparatus~~ method according to claim ~~1~~ 11, wherein a bar code is used for rendering the second number that is affixed on the item or item's packaging.

21. (New) A method for determining if an item is a fraudulent item, the method comprising the steps of:

obtaining by radio means a first and second number from an RFID tag, wherein the first number is unalterable and unique or semi-unique and the second number is associated with the item;

reading a third number that is a public-key signature over the first and second numbers;

utilizing a public-key cryptographic process and the first and second numbers to cryptographically verify the third number; and

determining the product's authenticity based on the verification.

22. (New) The method according to claim 21 further comprising the step of:

verifying that the RFID is an anti-forgery RFID tag.

23. (New) The method according to claim 22, wherein the verification comprises verifying one of a specific physical feature and a behavioral feature of the anti-forgery tag. [page 6, lines 1-8]

24. (New) The method according to claim 21 further comprising the step of:

verifying that the second number is associated with the item.

25. (New) The method according to claim 24, wherein the verification is performed visually.

26. (New) The method according to claim 21 further comprising the step of:

verifying that the second number is an Electronic Product Code (EPC) of the item.

27. (New) The method according to claim 21, wherein the reading is performed by a bar code scanner.

28. (New) A method according to claim 6, wherein the second number is associated with the product.